

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Giuliano To Work for Fairer School Aid System as Member of Governor's Education Finance Panel



As a member of the Governor's Commission on Education Finance, state Representative Marilyn Giuliano will work to change the state's formula for distributing aid to local school districts to make it more equitable to suburban and rural communities.

Governor M. Jodi Rell recently appointed Representative Giuliano, R-23rd District, a member of the General Assembly's Education Committee, to the education finance panel, which will review and propose changes to the state's Education Cost Sharing formula. The ECS formula determines the amount of state funding distributed to Connecticut's towns and cities each year.

The ECS formula has been the primary distribution system for education funding since the state Supreme Court's Horton vs Meskill decision in the 1970's. Since being put in place, the state legislature has changed it almost every year, usually in ways that have increased the share of education aid provided to the state's big cities and shortchanged suburban and rural communities.

"For far too long now, Connecticut's suburban communities have received significantly less in education aid than they send to the state in the form of taxes; while our large cities are the recipients of millions more in assistance to local schools than the revenues they contribute to the state," Representative Giuliano said.

"Although the state legislature has modified the ECS formula many times since the 1970's, in most cases, the changes that have been made have widened the education funding gap between Connecticut's towns and cities. Every year, property taxpayers in Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook – and in many other towns across the state – are being asked to shoulder far more than their fair share of the increasingly higher costs of providing a quality education to our children," Representative Giuliano said.

"One of my primary legislative goals always has been to eliminate the inequities built into the ECS formula that have resulted in Connecticut's large urban centers getting significantly more aid than suburban and rural school districts receive. Rectifying that disparity will be my top priority as a member of the education finance commission," Rep. Giuliano said.

